

Office of Professional Accountability (OPA) Commendations & Complaints Report December 2004

Commendations:

Commendation Received in December: 41

Commendations Received to Date: 702

Rank	Summary
(1) Officer	A citizen participated in a ride-a-long with an officer and concluded that police officers do keep the streets safer and enjoyed the educational experience.
(4) Officers	Officers received an appreciation note for the great job during the apprehension of a very combative and dangerous suspect. The officers addressed the situation with decisive action and prevented other officers from being assaulted.
(1) Detective	A detective educated a class of students on personal safety and how to be aware of their surroundings.
(3) Officers	Three officers captured and arrested a burglary suspect and during the investigation found that the individual was involved in additional burglaries throughout the city. The subject subsequently confessed to the additional crimes.
(1) Officer	An officer performed an outstanding job in the pursuit and arrest of a suspect. The immediate action saved others from further injury.
(1) Detective (2) Officers	Suspects involved in a crime spree involving multiple car thefts were apprehended through diligent investigation skills. The victim appreciated the assistance.
(1) Detective	A detective was diligent in locating a suspect in an assault case and was very professional. The detective provided positive support to the members of the community.
(2) Officers	Two officers diffused a volatile situation and were respectful to everyone. Their patience made a great difference when they responded to the call.
(1) Officer	An officer assisted a non-English-speaking student who was struck by a car while in a crosswalk. He was commended for his humanitarianism and kindness.
(1) Officer	An officer was commended for recovering a stolen vehicle.
(1) Sergeant (7) Officers	Officers handled a very dangerous incident with a high degree of tactical planning and execution. They also showed incredible restraint in handling a volatile suspect.
(1) Sergeant (2) Officers	A sergeant and two officers used sound and reasonable tactics in order to take a very combative suspect into custody. They were alert and ready to respond to the threat. They presented clear, thorough and outstanding documentation on incident.
(2) Officers	Officers were commended for their work and investigation that resulted in the apprehension of a predator.
(1) Sergeant (4) Officers	An incident that appeared on the surface to be minor in nature resulted in the arrest of a dangerous fugitive. Good tactics resulted in the subject being taken into custody with little incident.
(1) Sergeant (1) Detective	A sergeant and a detective were commended for their efforts during an investigation. Their level of compassion, genuine concern, integrity, understanding and prompt response was greatly appreciated by the victim.
(1) Dispatcher	A dispatcher's handling of a call that involved possible abuse of an elderly woman ensured that the parties involved received access to appropriate resources and assistance. The efforts were greatly appreciated.

(1) Civilian	A civilian employee was commended for the immediate recognition of a medical emergency and the decisive delivery of appropriate life-saving procedures.
(1) Sergeant	A sergeant assisted an elderly ill person arrive for her medical appointment on time and called for a tow truck for her stalled vehicle. He showed kindness and thoughtfulness in this situation and was commended for his actions.

December 2004 Closed Cases:

Cases involving alleged misconduct of officers and employees in the course of their official public duties are summarized below. Identifying information has been removed.

Cases are reported by allegation type. One case may be reported under more than one category.

UNNECESSARY FORCE

Synopsis	Action Taken
A complainant alleged that named employees had used unnecessary force during the arrest of a fellow arrestee at a downtown protest.	The complainant did not witness the incident. The subject did not complain and did not respond to requests for contact. Available evidence did not support the complainant's allegations. Finding – ADMINISTRATIVELY UNFOUNDED. Review of the facts of the case did prompt a request for a review of the circumstances with one officer's chain of command and a policy recommendation for review of force on passively resisting subjects.

CONDUCT UNBECOMING AN OFFICER

Synopsis	Action Taken
The complainant alleged the named employee made an inappropriate race-based remark during a contact.	Supplemental information regarding the investigation showed that the remarks were not likely to have been made by the named employee. Finding – UNFOUNDED.

Definitions of Findings:

“Sustained” means the allegation of misconduct is supported by a preponderance of the evidence.

“Not sustained” means the allegation of misconduct was neither proved nor disproved by a preponderance of the evidence.

“Unfounded” means a preponderance of evidence indicates the alleged act did not occur as reported or classified, or is false.

“Exonerated” means a preponderance of evidence indicates the conduct alleged did occur, but that the conduct was justified, lawful and proper.

Referred for Supervisory Resolution.

Training or Policy Recommendation means that there has been no willful violation but that there may be deficient policies or inadequate training that need to be addressed.

“Administratively Unfounded/Exonerated” is a discretionary finding which may be made prior to the completion that the complaint was determined to be significantly flawed procedurally or legally; or without merit, i.e., complaint is false or subject recants allegations, preliminary investigation reveals mistaken/wrongful employee

identification, etc, or the employee's actions were found to be justified, lawful and proper and according to training.

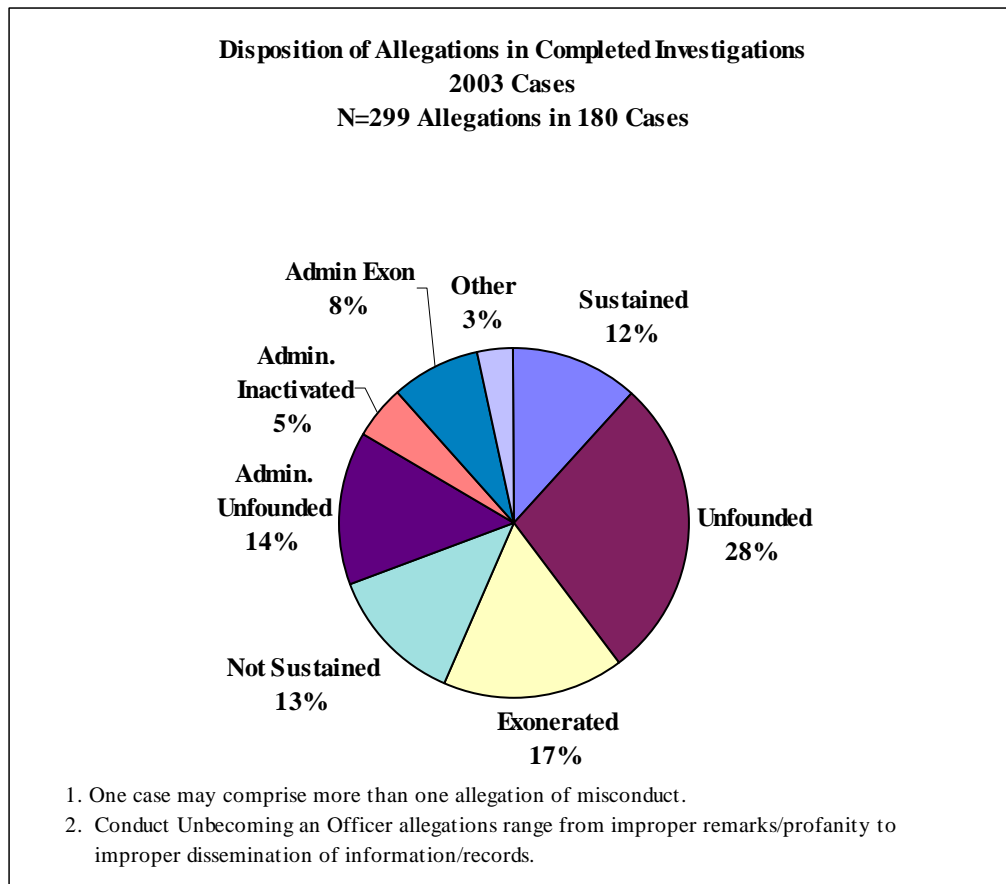
“Administratively Inactivated” means that the investigation cannot proceed forward, usually due to insufficient information or the pendency of other investigations. The investigation may be reactivated upon the discovery of new, substantive information or evidence. Inactivated cases will be included in statistics but may not be summarized in this report if publication may jeopardize a subsequent investigation.

Status of OPA Contacts to Date:

2003 Contacts

	December 2003	Jan-Dec 2003
Preliminary Investigation Reports	7	415
Cases Assigned for Supervisory Review	2	79
Cases Assigned for Investigation (IS;LI)	10	185
Cases Closed	1	180
Commendations	70	861

*includes 2003 cases closed in 2004



2004 Contacts

	December 2004	Jan-Dec 2004
Preliminary Investigation Reports	8	242
Cases Assigned for Supervisory Review	2	50
Cases Assigned for Investigation (IS;LI)	9	188
Commendations	41	702